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231
Fishkill 12th March 1781

Dear Sir

I have only time acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th Feby, by Israel who arrived yesterday with the horse in bad order, low in flesh, his legs filled with the scratches, & back galled, in which situation Israel says he received him. I am sorry for the disappointment of the horse the last year that was not my fault, and as to this year 300 hard dollars a year rent for him, and his body secured by insurance, was more than I could withstand, more especially as I have not received a farthing of public money since I saw you.

I thank you for the trouble you have taken on the business on which I wrote you by Mr. Bayley. Reed has done for himself cleverly.

I never meant to give you any unnecessary trouble about our accounts, once a year, they ought to be settled, if an unavoidable circumstance prevents it, we must be satisfied.

I am sorry for your indisposition which in part accounts for the old horse being in bad order. I myself have had an ill turn, am better, and shall set out for Philadelphia the day after tomorrow shall write you from there in case any thing material turns up.

If the enemy approach your quarter I hope they will have occasion to remember it.

You must take care of my interest in Moretown and let me hear your opinion on that subject as often as you can.

Yours &c.

Noses Harsen

Colo. Beckel.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
In the House of Representatives. March 8th 1781

Whereas an application has been made to the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by Gov. Philemon, in behalf of himself and the inhabitants of a Territory of Land known by the name of Vermont, requesting the said General Court to relinquish the claim of jurisdiction of said Commonwealth to the said Territory,

This Court having maturely and deliberately considered the same, feel themselves disposed to comply with the request of said Inhabitants, and to concede that the said Territory and the Inhabitants, within the same, should be a sovereign, independent State, in such way and manner, and upon such terms as shall be agreed upon and established by the Congress of the United States of America, therefore — Resolved, that in case the Territory called Vermont be recognised by Congress as a sovereign, independent State, and enter into the confederation with the other American States, this Commonwealth, will and do hereby relinquish their claim of jurisdiction in and over the said territory, and to every part and parcel thereof from the north side of the town of Northfield, on the west bank of Connecticut river, in the county of Hampshire, to the North West corner of the town of Williamston in the County of Berkshire, in such manner and described by such other bounds as shall be established by the Delegates of the United States in Congress assembled; resolving nevertheless, to each and every individual within & without said Territory of Vt. their full right and title to such lands within the same as are held and enjoyed by virtue of any right, or grant derived from the Province, State or Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and it is further resolved that his Excellency the Governor of this Commonwealth, be, and ~~is~~ hereby is requested to write to Congress informing them of the doings of this Court in the premises and also to enclose a copy of this resolve in a letter

232:607.
to Gov. Chittenton.

Sent up for concurrence

Caleb Davis — — Speaker

In Senate March 8th 1781. Read & concurred

Jenl. Powell President

Approved John Hancock

A true copy attest

John Avery Secy.

as ~~expedient~~ far as possible, the speedy completing of the said regiments

7th) Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that every person who shall engage an able bodied man to enter into either of the said two regiments to serve for the term of three years, shall and may take a transfer of the right of such of such names right to the bounty of lands intended to be given by this Act, and on producing to the Surveyor General a certificate signed by any officer or person authorized to muster and receive the men to be raised by virtue of this Act, shall and may locate and be entitled to receive a grant for the same, as if such person had actually entered and served in either of the said regiments for the term aforesaid. Provided always that the person receiving such grant shall either by himself, or some other person in his behalf make an actual settlement on, and improve such lands within three years next after the conclusion of the war, or that the same shall be deemed as forfeited and revert to the use of this State.

8th) and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said lands, hereby directed to be granted to the said officers non-commissioned officers and privates, shall be deemed and construed to be in lieu of all and every bounty, allowance of half pay or emolument whatsoever, on the part of this State — That the levies to be raised, in pursuance of this Act, shall be mustered by such person and in such manner, as Congress or the Commander in Chief of the army of the United States shall direct.

I do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the Original Act entitled "an act for raising two Regiments for the defence of this State in Bounties of unappropriated lands" now lodged in the Secretary's Office.

Rob^t Harper Dep^y Sec^y

Gov Clinton).² to the delegates of the State of New York in Congress in consequence of two acts to raise men - Congress engaging to (clothe) subsist and pay them.

Albany March 19. 1781

Gentlemen,

The legislature have passed a Law to raise levies for the immediate defence of the State to be paid and subsisted however at the expence of the United States.

These troops are to continue in service until the first day of December next and are to provide themselves with arms, and although it is expected that they will be employed in the frontier service, yet by the terms of the act they are wholly under the command and at the disposal of the Commander in chief who may at any time call them off to objects which he may conceive more important. It cannot be ascertained how many will be raised as it is impossible to determine what allowance ought to be made for delinquent classes. - If all the classes however furnish their men I imagine this levy will yield about two regiments agreeable to the Continental establishment. As these troops are not to be raised until Congress have given assurance that they shall be paid and subsisted at the expence of the United States, I must request you to apply for and obtain from Congress the necessary resolution for the purpose; and as the men ought to be brought into the field immediately I could wish you would give the business all possible despatch. In order to save time and in confidence that Congress will readily accede to our proposition I shall issue my General Orders for forming the classes and take every preparatory measure till you have advised me of the determination of Congress. It has been intimated that Congress lately have made a general provision declaring that all militia or other troops drawn out for the common defence should be considered as a common charge and that therefore a particular application with respect to our levies would be unnecessary. I never have seen the

act of Congress & therefore must submit it to you whether it will include these levies and should that be indisputably the case you will please to transmit me a copy of the act.

There is also a Bill before the Council of Revision for raising two regiments on the Continental establishment as to the number of officers and privates on bounties of unappropriated lands. These troops are to serve for three years and are also to be under the direction of the Commander in Chief except that they cannot be ordered out of the State without the consent of the Governor for the time being. and I am equally restricted from raising them till Congress have consented that their pay, subsistence and clothing shall be a common charge. Although the Bill has not passed the Council yet I believe it will meet with no objections and you may therefore venture to apply to Congress, as our frontiers are wholly exposed and we have much to apprehend upon the opening of the Spring, for their consent to pay clothe and subsist these troops. As soon as the Bill has passed through all its forms, I will do myself the pleasure to transmit you a copy; in the mean time as applications have already ~~been~~ been made for commissioners in these Corps I could wish if the general provision above alluded to should not be sufficiently comprehensive which I am induced to believe is the case, a resolution that they shall be supported at the general expense is necessary.

Remain with great respect
and esteem Gentlemen
Your most obt. Serv^t

An Act for raising two Regiments for the defence of this State, on bounties of unappropriated Lands

Passed 20th March 1781

Whereas the exposed situation of the extensive frontiers of this State renders it necessary that measures should be adopted for their protection

1) Be it therefore enacted by the people of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same; that two Regiments, upon the present continental establishment as to the number of officers and men composing such regts be raised for the defence of the frontiers, whenever the Congress of the United States shall give assurance that the regiments aforesaid shall be armed, accoutred clothed, subsisted & paid at the expense of the United States; and that the troops shall continue in service for three years from their respective enlistment, unless sooner discharged.

2) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid that it shall and may be lawful to and for the person administering the Gov^t for the time being, by and with the advice and consent of the Council of appointment to appoint the officers to such Regiments; and as often as vacancies shall happen, to appoint others. That a Lieutenant Colonel and a Major shall not be commissioned until a number of men equal to two thirds of the regiment shall be mustered. That it shall be lawful for the person administering the Gov^t of this State for the time being, by and with the advice and consent of the Council of Appointment, to appoint the Commission Officers to such regiments; and by and with such advice and consent, to issue warrants in the first instance to such and sundry persons as Captains and Subalterns as he shall deem proper and necessary speedily to enlist the men for the service aforesaid, and under such regulations and restrictions as he shall judge proper;

Provided always that the number of officers so by him

warranted as aforesaid shall not exceed in number the Continental establishment.

3) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be lawful for the person administering the Gov^t of this State for the time being, to employ & authorize such and so many Warrant Officers and others as he shall deem proper and necessary to muster and receive persons to be enlisted by virtue of this act, & to give to such persons certificates of their enlistments thereby to be enlisted to the bounty of land enlisted to be given by this Act. That if a sufficient number of men to compose a regiment, as aforesaid, shall not be raised on or before the first day of August next, the person administering the Gov^t shall be authorized to arrange and form the men then raised into an independent corps, in such manner as the person administering the Gov^t of this State for the time being shall deem proper, and that if after an regiment is completed there shall be a number of men enlisted beyond the complement of one regiment and not sufficient to complete another regiment, they shall be arraigned, disposed of, and formed into an Independent Corps. in the manner before prescribed.

4) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the faith of the State be and is hereby pledged to the officers - non commissioned officers and privates comprising such regiments or corps, that the Legislature of this State will grant unto such officers who shall be commissioned and to such non commissioned officers and privates as shall enlist in the said regiments, and who shall continue to serve during the time aforesaid, or until the time they shall respectively be dismissed or discharged; if such dismissal or discharge shall take place before the end of the said three years, or to the legal representatives of such officers - non commissioned officers and privates as shall die while in service, the following several quantities of unappropriated lands, to wit - To a Lt Col and Major,

each four rights - a captain and surgeon, each three rights
 a Lt. Ensign, and Surgeon's Mate, each two rights, and each non
 commissioned officer and and private one right, and that each
 right shall consist of five hundred acres. That it shall be lawful
 for any persons, entitled to any quantity of lands by virtue of this
 act to locate the lands which such person shall elect to be gran-
 ted to him, and that the legislature will as soon after the expi-
 ration of the said time of service as a survey of the said lands
 can be with safety performed, grant ^{to} such person, without fee
 or quitrent reserved, the quantity of land to which he
 may be entitled, out of the lands so located - That whenever any
 number of persons entitled collectively to sixty one Rights
 shall join in a location, the lands so located shall be laid
 out in a town ship of seven miles square, and granted to the
 said persons according to their respective rights therein, and
 that in each such township the remaining right shall be
 reserved for the support of the Gospel, and the remaining
 three hundred and sixty acres shall be reserved for the use
 of a school in such township - That whenever any of the
 lands, to be granted in pursuance of this act, shall be located
 in quantities less than a township of seven miles square,
 the person or persons, locating such lands, shall defray
 the expense of the survey thereof, but if a township shall be
 located the states shall bear the expense of running
 the outlines of such township: Provided that no locations
 shall be made on lands heretofore granted, or on lands be-
 longing to the Oneida and Tuscarora Indians, and Provi-
 ded that the lands to be granted by each grant shall be
 laid out as nearly in a square as the next adjacent appropri-
 ated lands will admit of That whenever any location
 shall be made by any person belonging to the said regiment
 or corps a description of the lands so located, and the persons
 name by whom & in whose right such location is made,
 shall be filed with the Surveyor General of this State
 for the time being, and the person administering the Govt of

this State for the time being, by and with the advice and consent of the Council of appointment is hereby authorized & required, as soon as may be after the passing of this act, to appoint a Surveyor General for this State; and if it shall appear to the said Surveyor General that the lands so located are described ^{with} sufficiently certainty, that the same have not heretofore been granted, and do not belong to the Oneida and Tuscarora Indians the Surveyor General shall approve such location, and cause the same to be filed in the Secretary's office of this State, and the person making such location shall immediately after the expiration of this time of service be entitled to a grant of the lands so located.

5) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid; that the said regiments or corps to be raised in pursuance of this act, shall be subject to the Rules and Articles of War established for the regulation of the army of the United States, and be under the command of the Commander in Chief of their army Provided always that none of said regiments or any part or detachment thereof shall serve out of this State, without the order, or consent of the person administering the Gov^t of this State for the time being

6) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid; that any person who shall deliver one or more of his or her able bodied male slaves to any warrant Officer as aforesaid, to serve in either of the said regiments or independent corps, and produce a certificate thereof signed by any officer or person authorized to muster and receive the men to be raised by virtue of this act, and produce such certificate to the Surveyor General, shall, for every male slave, so entered or mustered as aforesaid be entitled to the location and grant of one right, in manner as in and by this act is directed, and shall be ^{and} hereby is discharged from any future maintenance of such slave, any law to the contrary notwithstanding, and such slave so entered as aforesaid, who shall serve for the term of three years, or until regularly discharged, shall immediately after such service or discharge, be and is hereby declared to be a freeman of this State - and to encourage

Gov^r Clinton to Delegates of the State of New-York.
Albany 23 March 1781

Gentlemen,

I did myself the honor of writing to you on the 19th Instant by Post. I now enclose a copy of the Act then referred to together with a duplicate of my letter. Least by accident it might not have come to your hands, as the ~~previous~~ determination of Congress on the subject of paying and subsisting (and in one instance clothing) the troops is necessary before they can be raised. I have sent the bearer Mr Troop as a special express on this business and I am convinced that I need not add arguments to induce you to press Congress for an immediate answer when the safety of the State is so deeply concerned. I expect the legislature will rise in the beginning of the next week. The multiplicity of business with which I am necessarily charged in the close of the session, prevents my writing to you more fully and obliges me to refer it to an hour of more leisure in their recess. Your letter by Marselis was read and communicated to the legislature on the 19th inst.

I have the honour to be

with great respect your most obt. servt.

Gov^r Clinton

The Hon^{ble} the Delegates of the State of N.Y.)

Governor Gen: Clinton to James Duane.

Poughkeepsie April 6th 1781.

Dear Sir,

I have been favoured with your letters of the 7th and 20th ult: — I trust you will believe me when I assure you I entertain a grateful sense of your repeated marks of attention, and feel unhappy in not being able to observe that punctuality, in so agreeable a correspondence, as I could wish.

The Legislature after a very tedious session adjourned on the 31st ult: I enclose you a list of the Titles of the several Laws they have enacted; which with the copies transmitted to Congress and official letters which will give you a general idea of the business.

The cession made of the western Territory is much approved on a presumption that it will finally establish our western Boundary agreeable to the lines described by the cession.

The conduct of the people on the Grants daily become more serious and I am persuaded must in the end convince Congress that they might long before this to have interposed. I have no positive evidence of a criminal communication between them and the Enemy in Canada but there are circumstances which sufficiently justify, at least suspicion. Chittenden and his Council certainly opened a correspondence with Governor Haldiman last fall and Flagg's under pretext of establishing a cartel passed between them; when I believe it is a fact that they were not possessed of a single prisoner to exchange. It is equally certain that Fay and several others of their Leaders in a number of sleighs set out with a Flag for Canada this winter but were prevented, by the badness of the ice, from proceeding. They openly deny the authority of Congress and avow their right of making a separate Peace. The enemy last fall under Carleton passed by their settlement near the Lake, which were most accessible and destroyed

ours on the Banks of Hudson River. I most sincerely wish for a speedy decision of our controversy with these people; I should be happy if it might be a just & honourable one for the State; but I am persuaded at the same time that any decision that ~~can~~ be made, not extending their original Claims, will be preferable to delay. They now daily gain strength at our expense and while the Matter hangs in suspense it excites divisions on the subject, among ourselves; which I am apprehensive will have an unhappy influence in our public affairs.

The Legislature have granted a credit ~~in~~ the Treasury in favour of each of their Delegates to the amount of £300. — but I am sorry to inform you that there is not one furthering in it, nor is there the most remote prospect of its being in a better condition until the new money intended to be emitted by the State is brought into circulation. They have not appointed any additional Delegates. The Chancellor I am informed does not intend to give his attendance at Congress. Mr. Thompson has been with the Legislature ever since the first of January and I cannot learn that Genl. Scott has it in contemplation to return to Philadelphia, so that I have little prospect of relieving you, though I am persuaded you have a just Claim to a respite, or of the Representation of the State being continued, until the next meeting of the Legislature: (which is appointed, by their adjournment, on the first Wednesday in June next) and the appointment of some additional Members.

I remain with the most sincere

Respect and Esteem

Dear Sir

Your most Obedt. Servt.
Geo Clinton

real friend of that Country. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. I do not despair of what we ardently wish and the present strength of our Country and its resources may forward it. as Mr. Teaslee tells me your raising two thousand men for its defence.

You should keep up a correspondence with the Genl. offer all the supplies & support you are capable of furnishing, and solicit his aid and protection.

Yours in haste

Moses Hasen

Col. Bedel.

450